(c) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Government is not aware of any such scheme of the Government of Bihar with regard to implementing a uniform education system.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Delimitation of constituencies

*105. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the De-limitation Commission has completed the task of delimiting Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Country;

(b) if not, the States in which the de-limitation has been completed;

(c) the States where the de-limitation process is continuing at various stages;

(d) by which date the Commission is expected to submit its report;

(e) whether the Government are rethinking on de-limitation and whether the process is likely to be started *de novo*;

(f) whether population criteria adopted by the Commission has been found to be counterproductive and undesirable; and

(g) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Delimitation Commission has so far issued Orders in respect of 25 States/ Union Territories, namely, Kerala, Tripura, Mizoram, Goa, Pondicherry. Rajasthan, West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Sikkim, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Jharkhand.

(c) The High Court of Guwahati has passed its two different interim orders to suspend the delimitation work in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The High court of Guwahati in another interim order directed the delimitation Commission not to publish the final order in respect of Nagaland. Further, in respect of the State of Manipur the work of delimitation has been resumed after the stay given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the order dated 19-01-2007 of the Guwahati High Court.

(d) The term of the Delimitation Commission has been extended till 31st July, 2008 to complete its work.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The population criteria for undertaking delimitation have been set down by the Parliament itself. Government has, however, received representations

challenging the delimitation exercise on various grounds including *inter alia* that it would threaten the ethnic structure of political representation in North-Eastern States and some other States as well.

Share of Punjab in education cess

*106. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance, out of the educational cess, given to Punjab during 2005-06, 2006-07 and that earmarked for 2007-08, for various educational schemes, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(b) whether the State has given its share so as to fully utilize the Central assistance, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The proeeeds of Education Cess, credited into a non-lapsable fund called Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) are utilised exclusively for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid–Day Meal (MDM) scheme. Expenditure on SSA and MDM is incurred from PSK after funds provided by way of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) are fully utilised. No allocation is made separately to States against the Education Cess. Assistance under PSK is released to States as per the schematic pattern and budgetary allocations for SSA and MDM.

The break-up of Central assistance and State share for Punjab under SSA and MDM schemes is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	SSA		MDM	
	GoI Releases	State Share	GoI Releases	State Contribution
2005-06	146.83	48.94	17.74	No minimum mandatory State share
2006-07	128.79	26.27	62.25	14.00
2007-08	35.00 (upto 1.7.07)	-	29.41 (upto 16.8.07)	17.97

Fast Track Courts for pending cases

*107. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases pending in the courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to start new Fast Track Courts for the clearance of pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?